US IOOS Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed

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The US IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) uses targeted research and development to accelerate the transition of scientific and technical advances from the coastal and ocean modeling research community to improve identified operational ocean products and services (i.e. via research to operations and also operations to research). The vision of the program is to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and scope of the federal suite of operational coastal and ocean modeling products, while ensuring its diverse user community is better equipped to solve challenging coastal problems.Since its initiation in June, 2010, non-federal partner, the Southeast University Research Association (SURA) has led the development of the COMT to include a flexible and extensible community research framework to test and evaluate predictive models to address key coastal environmental issues. This framework supports integration, comparison, scientific analyses and archiving of data and model output. The COMT has developed a cyber infrastructure to allow more effective collaborations among Federal research labs, the academic community and Federal operational centers to accelerate improvements of predictive models. This roundup will focus on our FY17 highlights, metrics and our reorganization and change of operational model for FY18. There are 5 projects underway which have each had significant successes including transitions of reports and results and in one case full transition of code and product. The Chesapeake Bay hypoxia team transitioned its dissolved oxygen code into the operational CBOFS and is now hosting the DO product at the Mid-Atlantic IOOS Regional Association (MARACOOS). The COMT 5 year award period ends in September so all project teams are completing project work and developing publications for a special issue of JGR Oceans. The IOOS Program Office is also taking a new approach for the COMT going forward. Rather than funding a non-federal partner to manage the COMT projects, we will manage them internally. This will enable us to better couple project work with identified federal requirements for coastal and ocean modeling. It will also allow us to more tightly couple the projects with our Regional Associations to improve our stakeholder engagement and ensure the end products will meet community needs. This change in organization will be discussed along with a limited outlook for FY18 due to in progress selection process.